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A Report on Raptors in Northwest Utah for the 1974 Season

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Galen R. Hunsicker
Graduate, Zoology Dept.
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June 15, 1974

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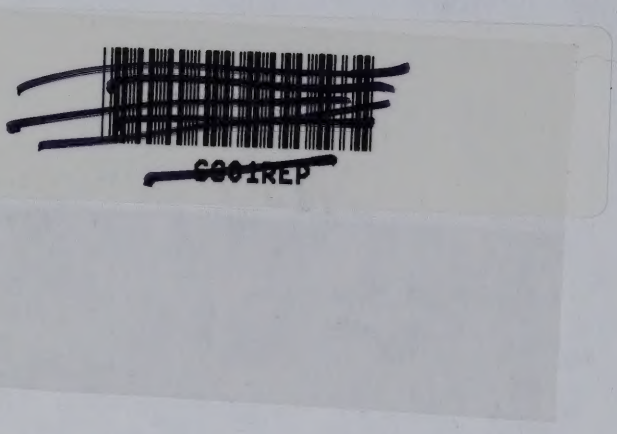
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Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos
(Active Nests)

Results

Location of nests

Eight Golden Eagle nests were found, and for easier reference, I shall number them beginning with the western most valleys and moving from north to south in each(Table 1).

Table 1. Location of nest sites of Aquila chrysaetos(1974).

Nests#	Mtn. Range	Valley	Specific Site
1	N. Cedar	Puddle	Rect.-Prism cliff(nw-se)
2	Dugway(Ridge)	M.Dugway	5 mi. n. of Dugway Pass
3	N.Thomas	M.Dugway	1 mi. s. of Dugway Pass
4	Salt Mtn.	M. Skull	2 mi. e. of Iosepa Rnch.
5	Oquirrh	E. Rush	Mercur Canyon
6*	N.W. Lake	N.E.Cedar	Cliff line 3mi.se Webb Cedars
7	Chimney Rock	S.E.Cedar	4 mi. se. Blowhole Hill
8**	Cathill	Goshen	6 mi. s. of Lake Mtns.

*Active last year

** Abandoned
*** Active last two yrs.

All nests were placed on cliff ledges. Two eggs were laid at the Cat Hill site(observed on April 12, 1974), but on May 12, 1974, the nest had been abandoned with one egg still intact and the other cracked. Table 2 gives addition-

Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos
(Active Nests)

Results

Location of nests

Eight Golden Eagle nests were found, and for easier reference, I shall number them beginning with the western most valleys and moving from north to south in sequence 1).

Table 1. Location of nest sites of Aquila chrysaetos(1974).

Nests	Mtn. Range	Valley	Specific Site
1	N. Cedar	Paddle	East-trend cliff(Un-se)
2	Dugway(Ridge)	N.Dugway	5 mi. n. of Dugway Pass
3	N.Thomas	S.Dugway	1 mi. s. of Dugway Pass
4	Dugway Mts.	N. Skull	2 mi. s. of Joseph Rnch.
5	Dugway	E. Rush	Horse Canyon
6*	N.W. Lake	N.E.Cedar	Cliff like Sel.se web
7	Chimney Rock	S.E.Cedar	Cedars 4 mi. se. Blowhole Mtn
8**	Cedar	Cosgrove	6 mi. s. of Lake Rdge.

*Active last year ** Abandoned *** Active last two yrs.

All nests were placed on cliff ledges. Two eggs were laid at two out this site(observed on April 15, 1974), but on May 12, 1974, the nest had been abandoned with one egg still intact and the other crushed. Table 2 gives addition-

al statistics on the sites.

Table 2. Nest site data on Aquila chrysaetos(1974).

Nests #	Elevation (')	Ht. above Valley (')	Direction	Hunting* Area
1**	6400	1300	N.E.	East Side*
2	5800	1200	N.E.	Foothills
3	5000	200	E.	E. Dugway V.
4	5600	1300	W.	E. Salt Mtn.
5**	6250	1000	S.W.	Oquirrh
6	6200	1300	W.	East Side
7	4650	100	N.	Goshen V.
8	5100	300	N.E.	S. Lake Mtns.

*Most often observed

**Spotted from plane

Condition of young

Table 3. State of offspring(1974)

Nests	Date	# of young	# of eggs	age(wks.)
1	5/18	1	0	3
2	5/29	1	0	4
3	5/7	1	1	1 day
	5/16	1	0	1.5
4	5/20	1	0	2-3
5	5/16	1	0	2-3
6	3/29	0	2	0
	5/19	1	1	3
7*	6/5	1	0	6-7
8	4/12	0	2	(Abandoned)

*Most developed young

All sites observed, except # 8, produced only one eaglet/nest(Table 3). Many may have had two eggs, however, as did #3(Fig. 1) and #6(Fig. 2).

Prey remains

The most developed young was at Chimney Rock(#7) with the eaglet about one and one-half week ahead of #6 which in turn was about the same time period ahead of #3. This was largely due, of course, to the difference in prey at each site(Table 4).

Table 4. Prey remains of Aquila chrysaetos(1974).

Nests	Blacktailed jack rabbit	Townsend Grnd. Sq.	Birds	Snakes
1	--	1*	--	--
2	--	3*	--	--
3	2**	8	1	3 Gopher***
4	--	--	--	--
5	--	--	--	--
6	4	0	0	0
7	6	0	0	0
8	1	1	0	0
Total	13	13	1	3

* Taken to nest ** Neatly skinned *** Pellet Analysis(Fig. 3)

Highest jack rabbits counts came from nests with hunting territories within two miles of Lake Utah where the jack rabbit population is much higher than in Cedar

Valley or those west. On June 5, 1974, six road kills were observed while driving the 20 miles along the lake's west side. On June 10, seven additional road kills were found. Comparison of prey between sites #3, #6, and #7 yields quite different results. Whereas #3 contained mostly ground squirrels, #6 and #7 had only Blacktailed jackrabbits. On June 5, 1974, six pairs of good sized jackrabbits were observed at site #7, while no other prey was seen. On June 10, 1974, these legs and others were cleaned off this nest with a hooked stick and measured (Table 5) to compare them with those from site #6(Fig. 3). At site #6, the smallest hind foot measured 45 mm with an average of 85 mm, whereas at site #7, the smallest was 90 mm with an average of 113 mm. The largest observed was 127 mm-indicating prey less than one year old.

The only nest where snake scales and birds were found was at the Dugway Pass aerie #3. (Fig. 3) Here, upon examination of three pellets, scutella of gopher snakes were found distributed throughout each. Verification of species was done by comparing these scales with those of the same type from gopher snakes hit on the highway within five miles of Dugway Pass. However, the basic food source here is ground squirrels which, of course, may easily be taken through the snakes. On May 16, 1974, feathers of the Chukar were found in nest #3 along with a neatly skinned Blacktailed jackrabbit. One other rabbit was found in this condition—a feeding habit apparently unique to this eagle pair (Figs. 1 and 5)

The following five pages illustrate nest site and condition of #3 and #6 sites.

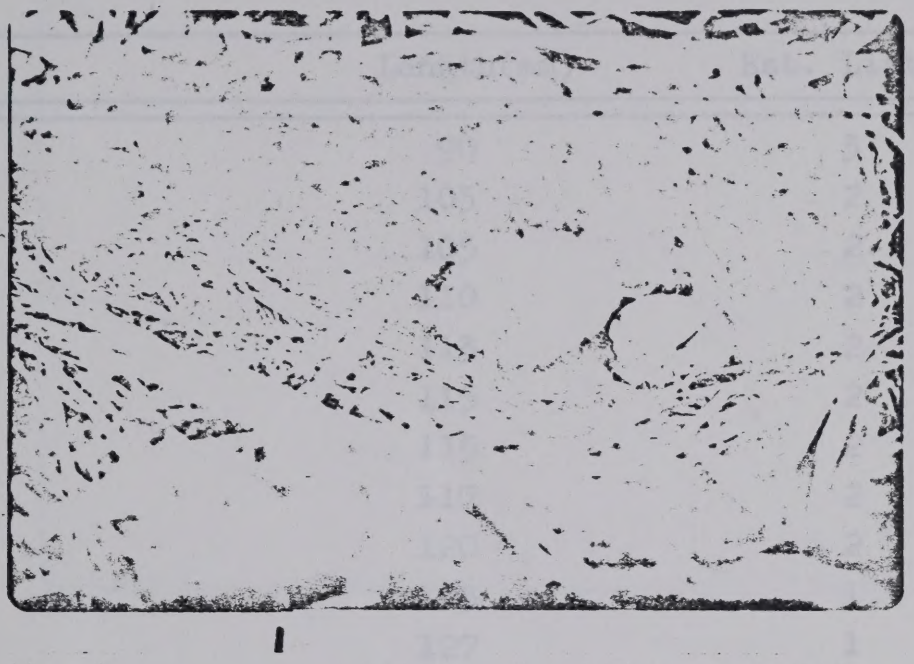


Fig. 1. Two day old young and egg at #3 aerie(May 7, 1974) Note skinned Blacktailed jack rabbit in foreground.

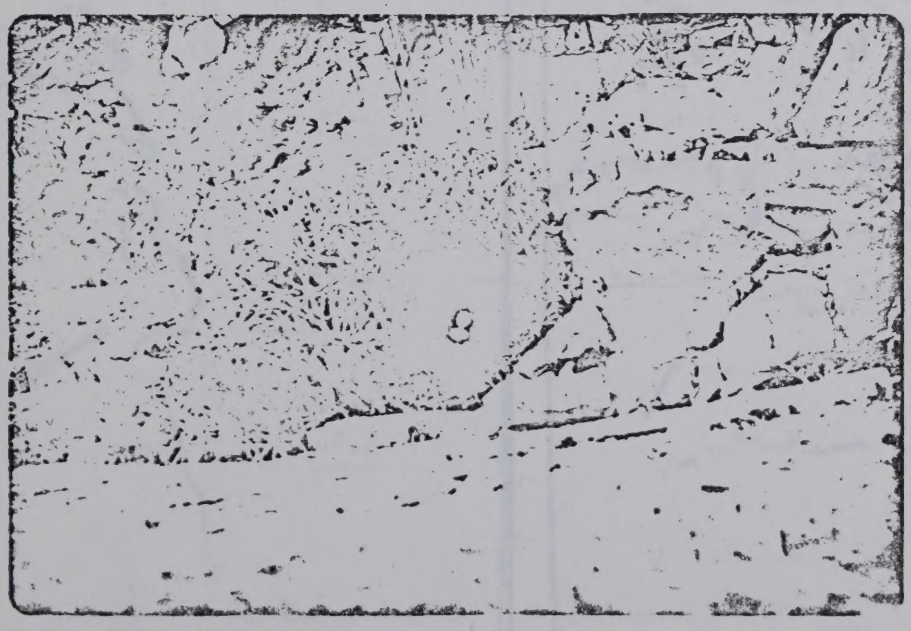


Fig. 2. Two eggs from Lake Mtn. nest site #6(Mar. 29, 1974)

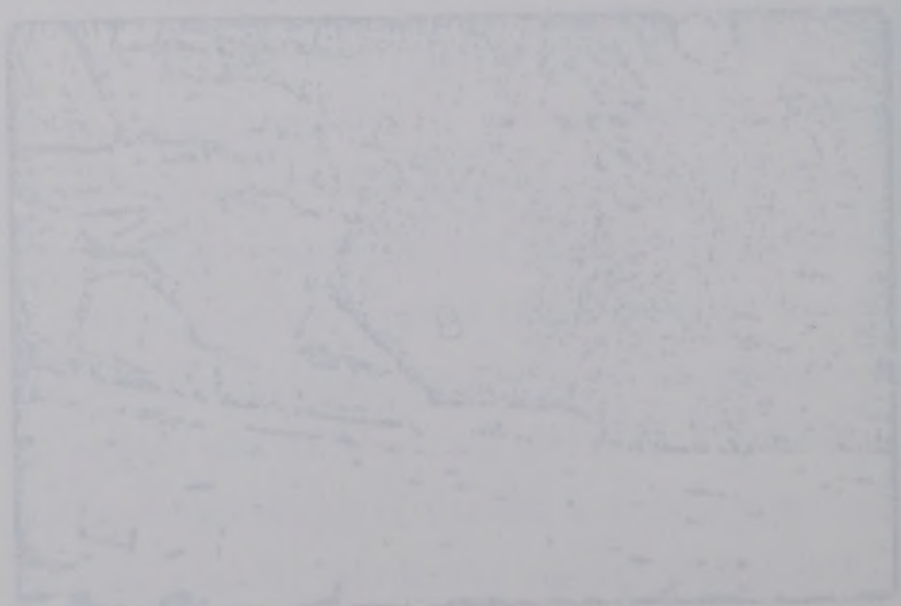


Table 5. Length of hind foot of Blacktailed jack rabbits from nest site #7.

Pair #	Length(mm)	Est. Litter
1	90	3
2	103	2
3	105	2
4	110	2
5	113	2
6	115	2
7	115	2
8	117	2
9	120	2
10	125	1
11	127	1
Average	113	All less than (1) yr.

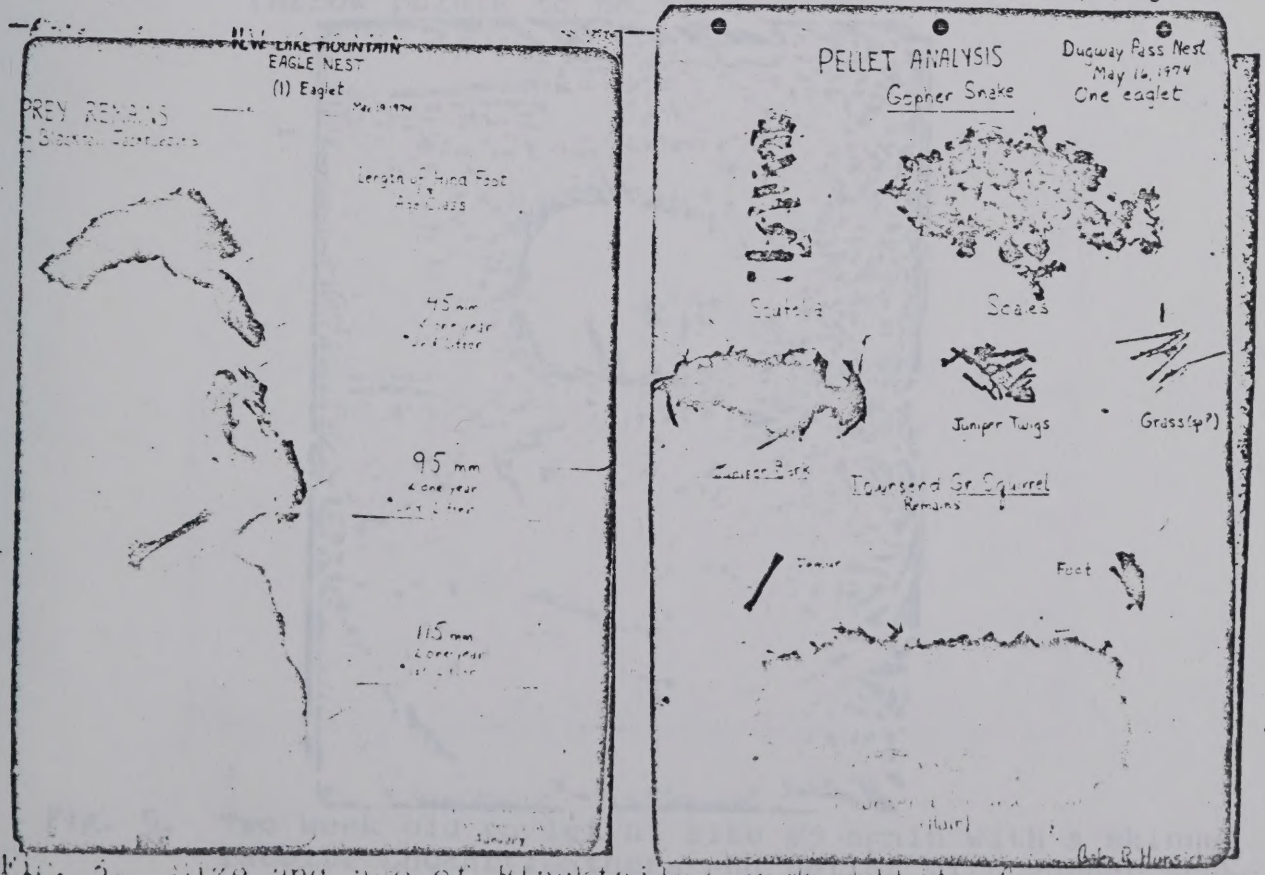


Fig. 5. Size and age of blacktailed jack rabbits from Lake Mtn. nest #6 (May 19, 1974). Pellet from #3

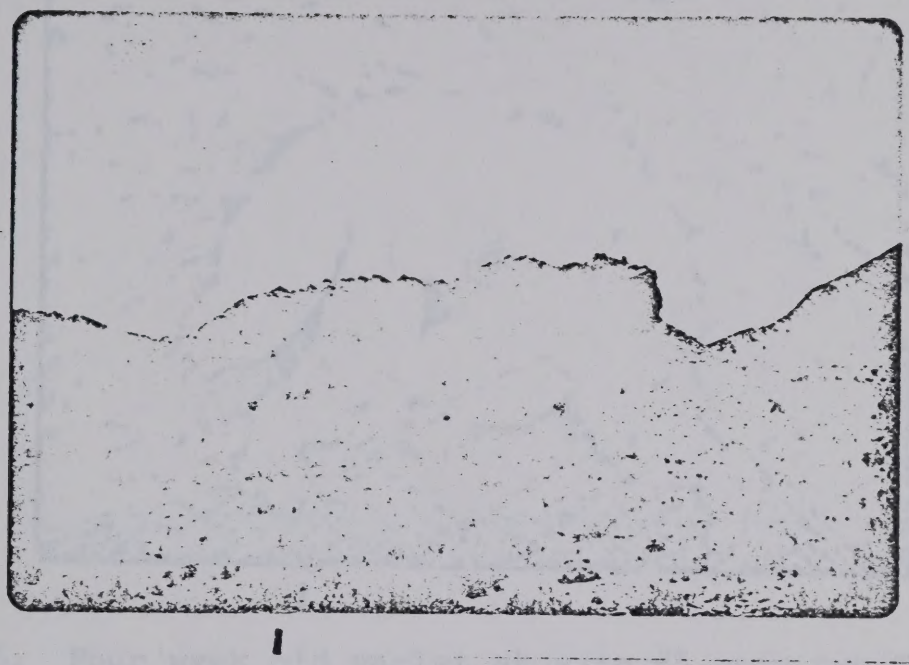


Fig. 4. Cliff site of Dugway Pass aerie #3 (May 29, 1974) (Arrow points to nest)

Fig. 5. Two week old eaglet at site #3 again with a skinned rabbit. Chukar feathers and pellet with gopher snake scales intermixed with ground squirrel were found(5/16)

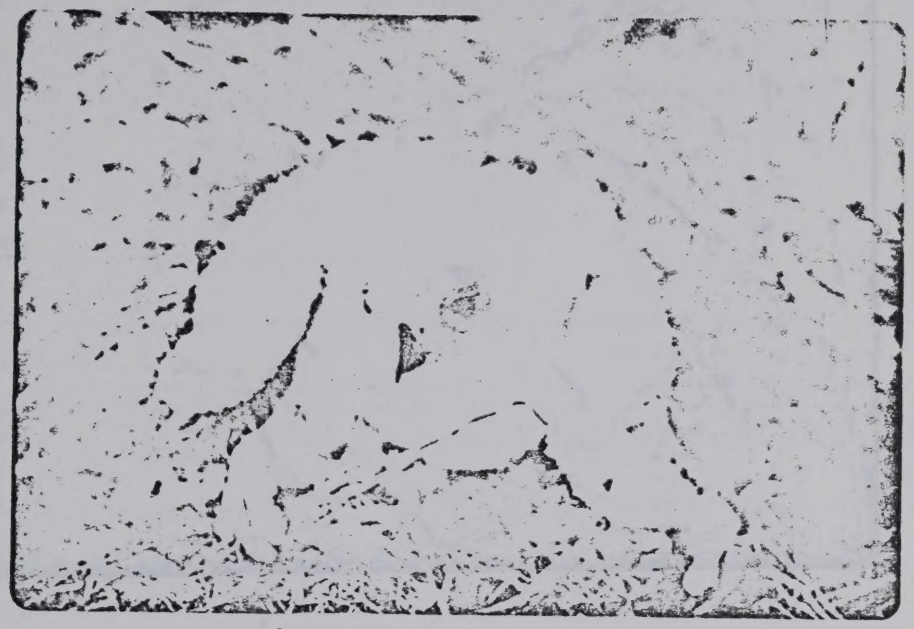


Fig. 6. Four week old eaglet at site #3 upon two Townsend ground squirrels; 3rd squirrel out of picture(May 29,

Fig. 7. Cliff line of nest site #6 on N.W. Lake Mtns. (May 16, 1974)

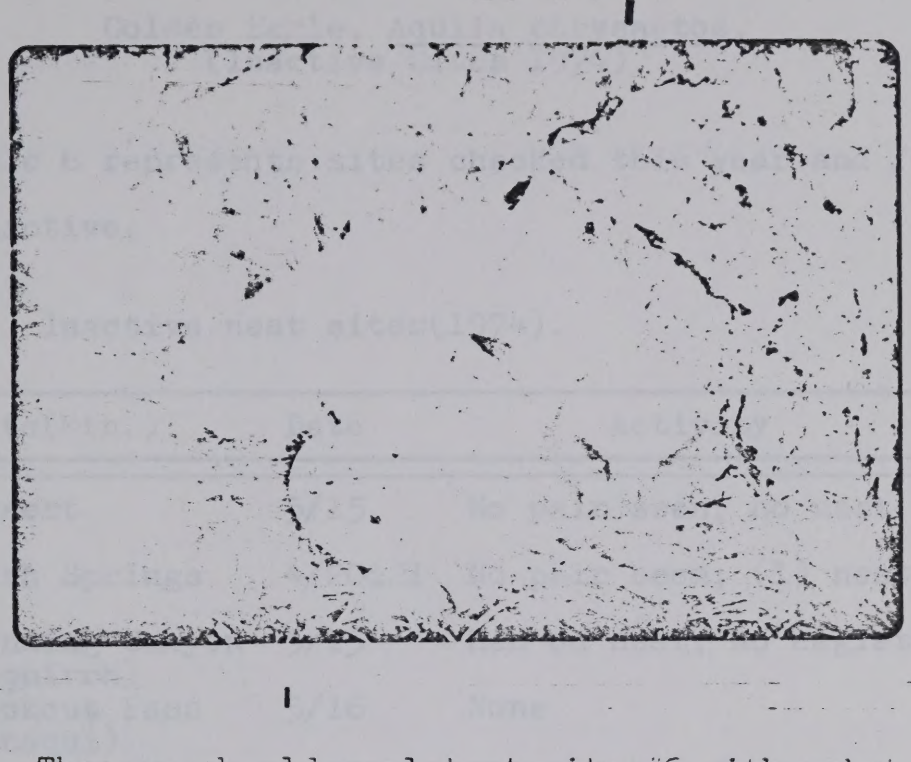


Fig. 8. Three week old eaglet at site #6 with unhatched egg. Note jack rabbit leg in back (May 19, 1974).

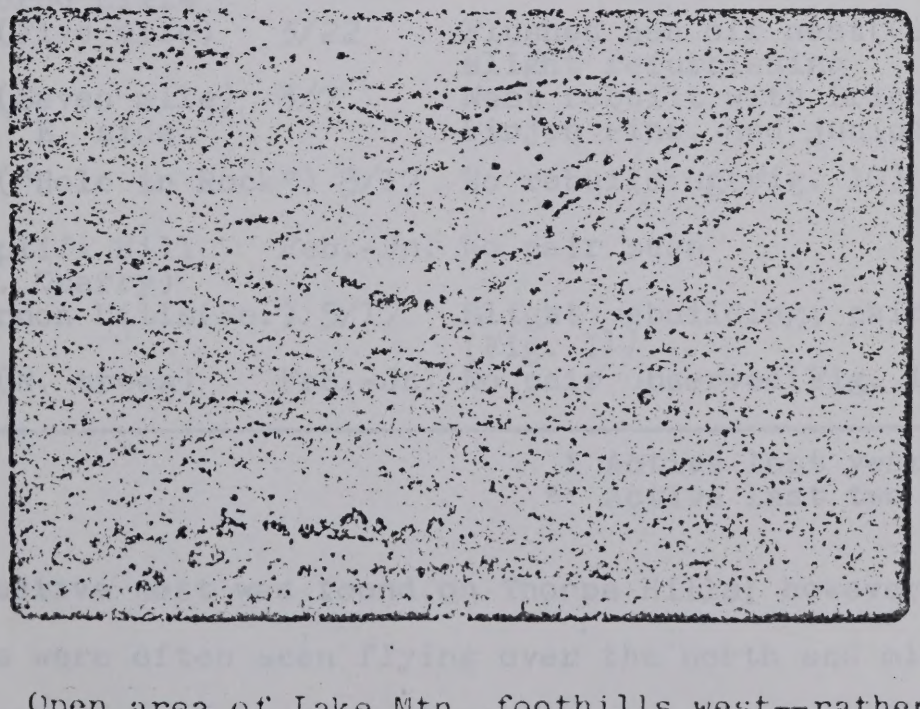


Fig. 9. Open area of Lake Mtn. foothills west--rather poor rabbit cover. Pair hunts largely on east side(#6) May 19, 1974.

Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos, (Inactive Sites 1974)

Table 6 represents sites checked this year and found to be inactive.

Table 6. Inactive nest sites(1974).

#	Site(Mtn.)	Date	Activity
1	Desert	5/15	No pair seen; no nest found
2	Fish Springs	4/20&21	No pair seen; (1) nest
3	Manning Canyon (Oquirrh)	5/13	Hen on nest; no eaglet seen
4	Lookout Pass (Onaqui)	5/16	None
5	Simpson (N.)	4/20	Flushed hen from nest; no eggs
6	Slow Elk Hills	5/7,29	Checked (3) nest; (1)pair
7	Table	5/7	Pair perched in shade of S.W. cliff; no nest seen
8	Thorpe Hills (Five mile)	3/22	Flushed hen off nest(Citadel); slight refurbishing
9	(Seven mile) E. side	3/7	Nest rebuilt with Brigham Tea, Pinjon Pine, and juniper twigs
10	("Hole in Rock")	5/17	No rebuilding(Fig. 10)
11	Topliff Hill (N. Quarry)	Feb.-Jn.	No pair seen
12	Vernon Hills(So.)	5/17	Slight rebuilding; pair common (Fig. 11)
13	(N. trees)	Feb.-Jn.	No pair observed(Fig. 12)

* Active last year
** Active last two years

No active nest was found on Thorpe Hills; however, two pairs were often seen flying over the north and middle part of its range. At several sites, attempts were made

to rebuild the nest(#9 and #12).

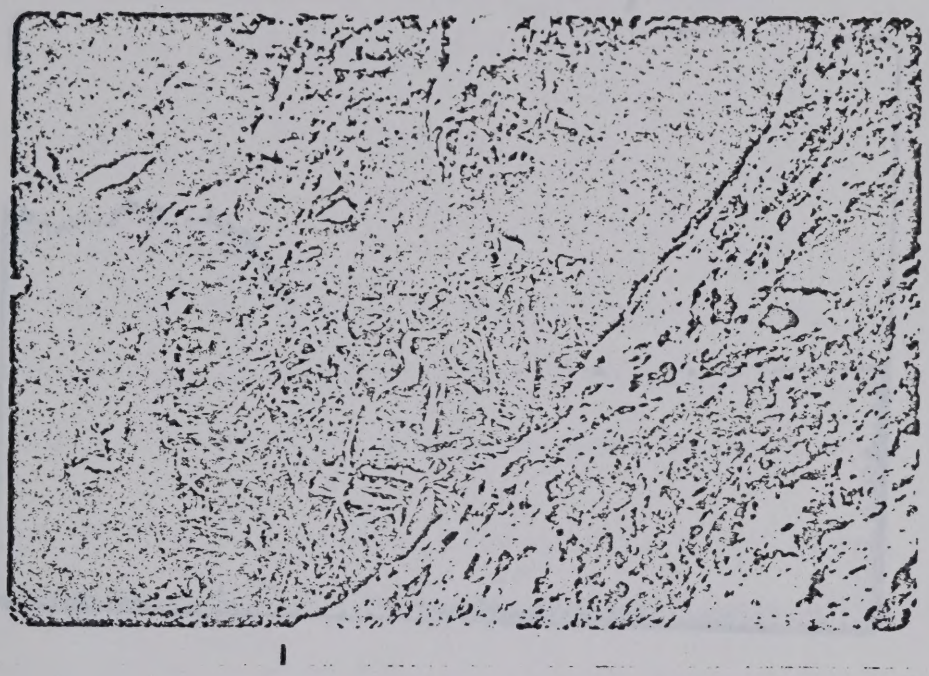
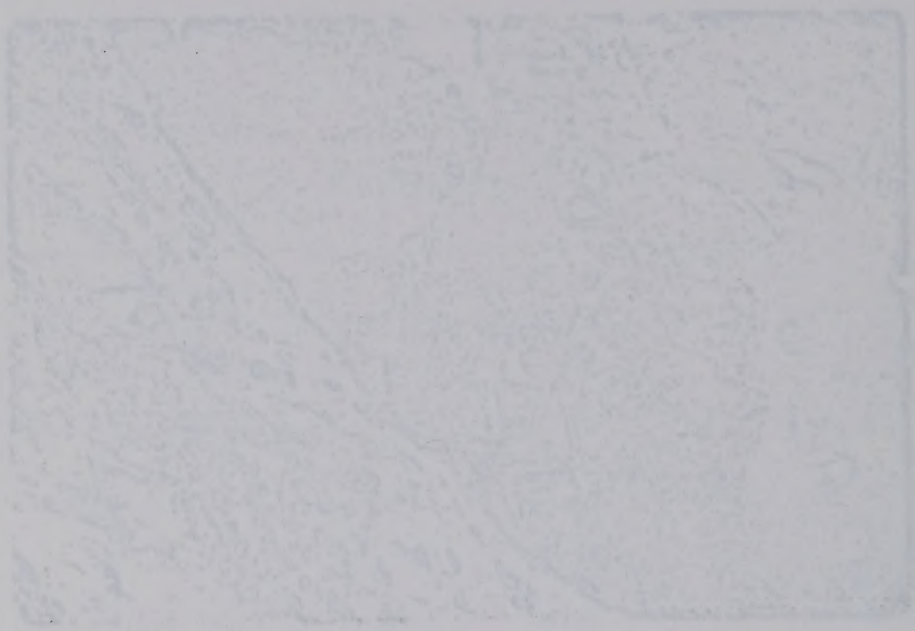


Fig. 10. "Hole in Rock" nest untouched this year 1974. Site # 10

Fig. 11. So. Vernon Hill cliff site# 12 illustrating slight rebuilding(May 12, 1974).



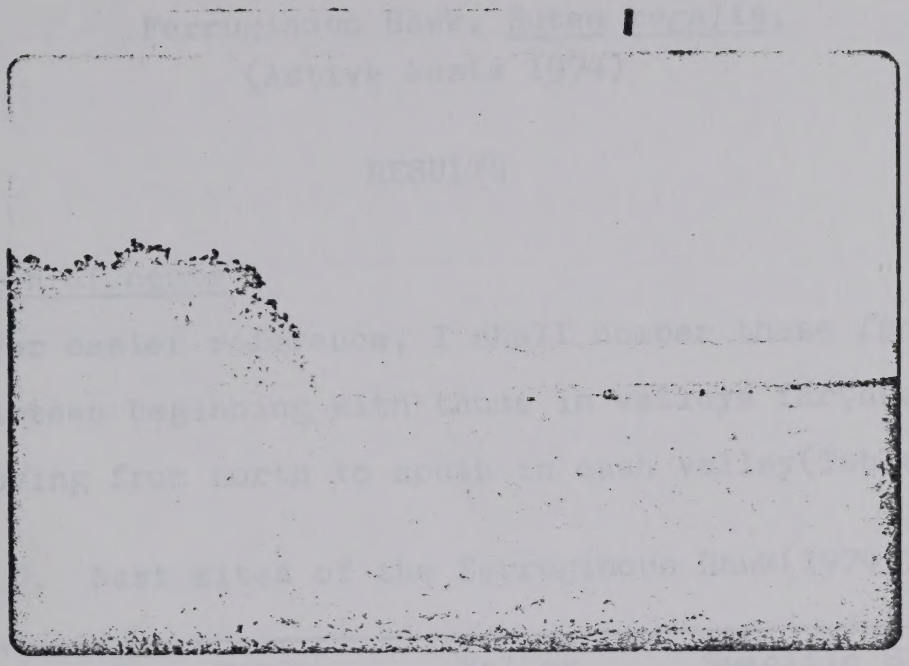


Fig. 12. Eagle nest in juniper at north end of Vernon Hills. No activity was observed in this area from Feb.- June, 1974 (March 7, 1974).

I made one trip to the Deep Creek Mountains. Access roads are few, and off-road driving is extremely rough. Two pairs were spotted at Callao's latitude, but no nest was observed. Several immature eagles were seen in Puddle Valley, but I found no active nests along the west cliffs of Lakeside Mountains.

The west side of Cedar Mtns. has great cliff lines, but after traversing the northern two/thirds, I found one pair and no nests. Rabbit cover is very poor on this side.

Ferruginous Hawk, Buteo regalis,
(Active Nests 1974)

RESULTS

Location of nests

For easier reference, I shall number these from one to thirteen beginning with those in valleys farthest west and moving from north to south in each valley(Table 7).

Table 7. Nest sites of the Ferruginous Hawk(1974).

Nests #	Mtn. Range	Valley	Specific Site
1	S. Lake Mtns.	N. Skull	Off Frontage Rd.;2 mi. e. of Lakeside Sign
2	S. Lakeside	N. Skull	" but 4 mi. east
3	S.E. Cedar Mtn.	S. Skull	2nd Rd..left N. of Dugway
4	W. Sheeprock	S. Skull	4 mi. w. Lookout Pass
5	Slow Elk Hills	M. Dugway	4 mi. se. Pony Express
6	Slow Elk Hills	M. Dugway	5 mi. se. Pony Express
7*	E. Thomas	S. Dugway	6 mi. n. Topaz Rock Sign
8	E. Thomas	S. Dugway	4 mi. n. Topaz "
9*	E. Thomas	S. Dugway	2 mi. n. Topaz "
10	Fivemile Pass	E. Rush	1 mi. w. Faust Sign
11*	N. Topliff	Cedar-Rush	10 mi. pass
12*	Longpoint	S. Cedar	Longpoint
13*	S. Lake Mtns.	Cat Hill	1 mi. n. of Cat Hill

* Active last year.

Numbers two, 12, and 13 were built on rock ledges; all the others were in junipers. Table 8 gives additional statistics about nest sites.

Table 8. Nest site data on Buteo regalis(1974).

Nests #	Elevation (')	Ht. in Juniper (')	Exposure	Nearest tree
1*	5400	9	All	50'
2	5400	Rockline(7')	"	½ mi.
3	4800	11	"	50'
4	5350	10	"	50'
5	4800	14	"	200'
6	4800	7	Except S.	100'
7*	5050	9	All	1 mi.
8	5100	10	"	¼ mi.
9*	5100	8	"	200'
10	5100	10	"	60'
11*	5650	8	Except N.	30'
12*	5000	Rockline(15')	Exc. E.	1 mi.
13*	4950	Rock crop(7')	Exc. W.	¼ mi.

* Active last year

Elevation varied from 5650' to 4800'—a difference of only 850' with an average elevation of 5130'. Furthermore, most are exposed to the sun from all directions which obviously means that the young receives high heat stress from 1100- 1600 hours. During this time interval, the

adults were usually seen on the nest— usually the female. However, on two occasions, both parents were observed on #5 and #7 sites between 1500-1600 hours. The only nests absent of adults upon first observation were #1,#2,#3, and #6, all of which were located after 1800 hours. Such adult behavior did not seem to be correlated with age of young for #7 (with oldest at 4-5 wks.), #6(young at 3 wks.), and #5(young at 1-2 days) all had adults over the nest at 1500 hours.

By far the most isolated nest from any juniper was #7 nest which was well out into Dugway Valley about one mile from E. Thomas Range Road. This nest, together with #8 and #9, were within five miles of each other, at the same elevation, and same general area— S. Dugway Valley.

In fact, these thirteen sites, for the most part, were located in groups. The first group mentioned is found in southern Dugway Valley. Indeed, wherever there are such clumps, an active nest is likely. More observation on the other side of the valley needs to be done.

Condition of young

Whereas type of nest, elevation, and exposure varied little between the fourteen nest sites, the condition of the offspring did(Table 9).

Table 9. Condition of offspring(1974).

Nests #	Date	# of young	# of eggs	age(wks.)
1	5/21	3	0	2
2	5/20	0	2	0
3	5/23	0	1*	0
4	5/28	2**	0	2-3 days
5	5/30	1	1*	3 days
6	5/30	3	0	2-3 [illegible]
7	5/29	3	0	4-5 [illegible]
8	5/29	2	1	2-5 days [illegible]
9	5/29	4	0	3-4 [illegible]
10	5/31	4	0	2-3 [illegible]
11	6/10	1	0	4 [illegible]
12	6/10	2***	0	4 [illegible]
13	6/5	2***	0	4 [illegible]

* In process of hatching
** One dead(6/5- nest empty)
*** Three young (2) wks. before

It is interesting to note that sites #1 and #2, only three miles apart, had such opposite conditions, as did #7, #8, and #9 within five miles of each other. There is much room for speculation here. Perhaps #2 pair simply arrived later(two or three weeks). It may also be that within the area around #1 site, there is a higher prey density. Since Buteo regalis is not known to travel great distances to obtain food, this could play a factor. Thirdly, there may be a physiological difference between

the #1 and #2 pairs. The first was extremely aggressive, repeatedly diving within 10 feet overhead, whereas #2 pair resigned to circling and alarm calls. Adult aggressiveness and state of young did not always correlate, however. For example, #6 pair, with three young at two-three weeks, simply circled and stooped no closer than 30 feet, whereas at #5 site, I glanced up to find the female within five feet of my head.

The condition of the young at #3 and #4 was extremely poor. I suspect that the alternate prey, ground squirrels, was quite low in population compared to northern Skull Valley and especially Dugway Valley. On June 5, 1974, no young were present at #4 nest. If, indeed, there were few ground squirrels at this site, the parents probably spent less time at the nest thereby increasing the chances of owl or other raptor predation. The #13 site originally contained three young, but by June 5, only two remained.

Prey remains

Although ground squirrels were most often taken by these hawks, other items were also found(Table 10). Young birds quite often were found at certain sites--especially #4.

In 1972 when the jack rabbit population was still high, eight to ten active Ferruginous nests were located in southern Cedar Valley. This spring only three were

Table 10. Prey remains of Buteo regalis(1974).

Nests #	Townsend Gr. Sq.	Harvest Mice	Horned Lks.	Blk.tld.J.R)
1	2	0	0	1**
2	2	0	0	0
3	1	1	1	0
4	0	0	2 &1 Sage Thr.	0
5	1	0	3	0
6	1	1	0	0
7	1	0	0	2**
8	1	1(K.rat)	1*	0
9	2	0	0	0
10	4	1	0	0
11	0	0	0	1**
12	0	0	0	1**
13	0	0	0	4**
Total	15	3	7	9

* Young off nest
** Less than one yr.

found. Is the ground squirrel population low here so that they cannot serve sufficiently as an alternate prey source to maintain a large number of pairs? It would appear that southern Skull Valley is in this situation. Here, of the two nests located, only one young at site #3 remained. This part of Skull Valley has low rabbit cover, while the soil is more granular than the Dugway lake bottom

clay type. This seems to prevent long lasting compact tunnel systems necessary for the Townsend Ground Squirrel. Although they are seen here, their number is much lower than in the Dugway Valley basin where there is much less cover(sage or cheat grass). Here, nine Ferruginous young were counted, and the three at site #7 would probably leave the nest within.two weeks(from June 5, 1974).

Transects of southern Skull, Cedar, and Dugway valleys need to be taken to obtain ground squirrel density. Just as the case with the Golden Eagle, more rabbits were found on the Ferruginous nests closer to the lake(#12 and #13) than upon those sites farther west. Those with young birds for prey contained two or less Ferruginous young.

There is most likely another active nest in the juniper woodland of north Vernon Hills near Faust, but I was not able to find it. Of all sites, only two—#11 and #12—were not on BLM land.

The following 10 pages illustrate the condition and site of the first 10 nests (Fig..13-32).

Fig. 13. From Lakeside Mts. site #1 looking s.e. to northern Stansbury Mtns. Note little sage cover, Cheat grass; excellent ground squirrel condition with fine, compact soil(May 21, 1974)

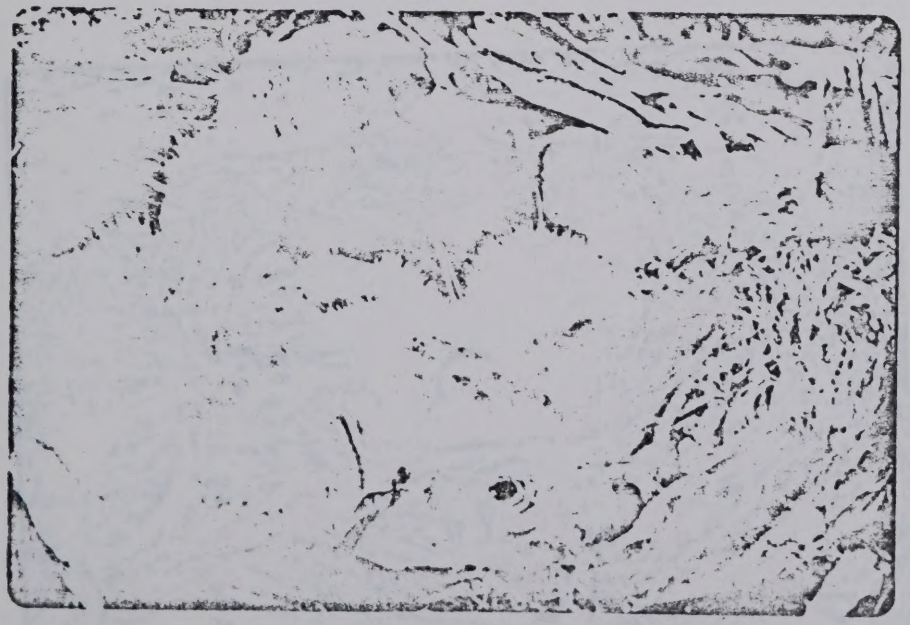


Fig. 14. Three young with two Townsend grnd. squirrels in back(Site #1)(May 21, 1974).

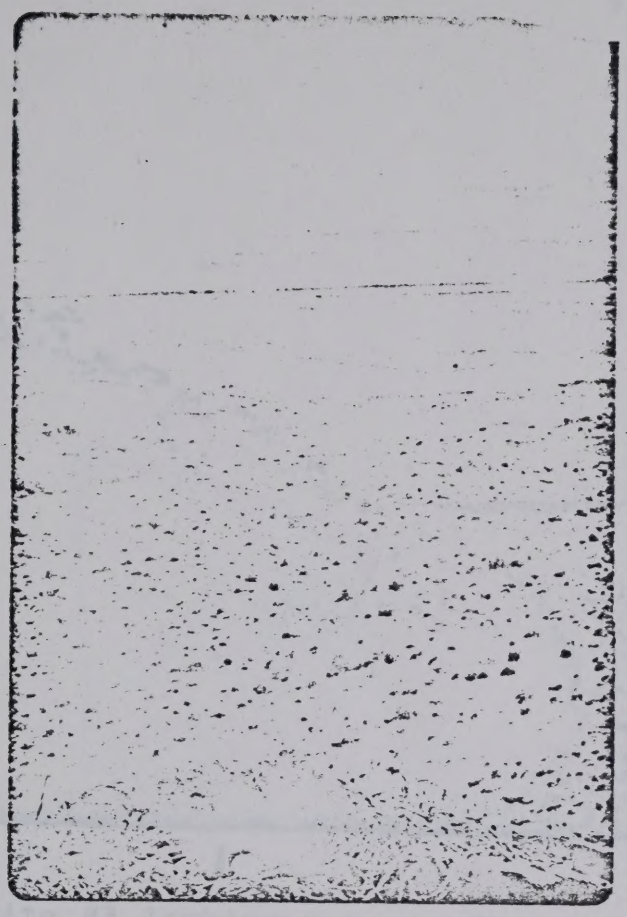


Fig. 15. Rockline site #2 looking south. Cheat grass plentiful, low rabbit cover(May 20, 1974).

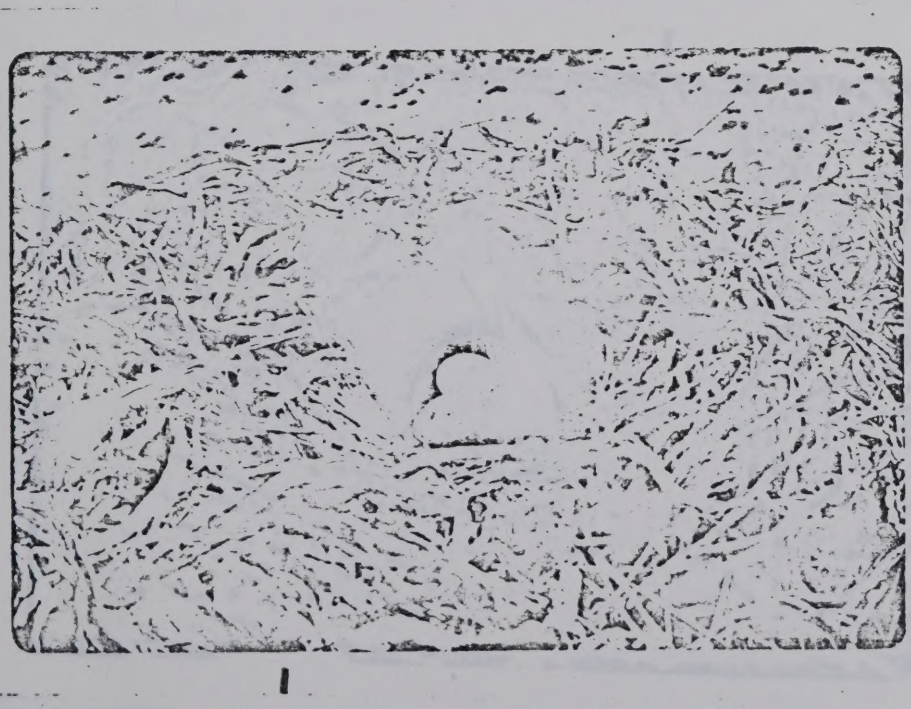


Fig. 16. Two Ferruginous eggs from site #2 (May 20, 1974).

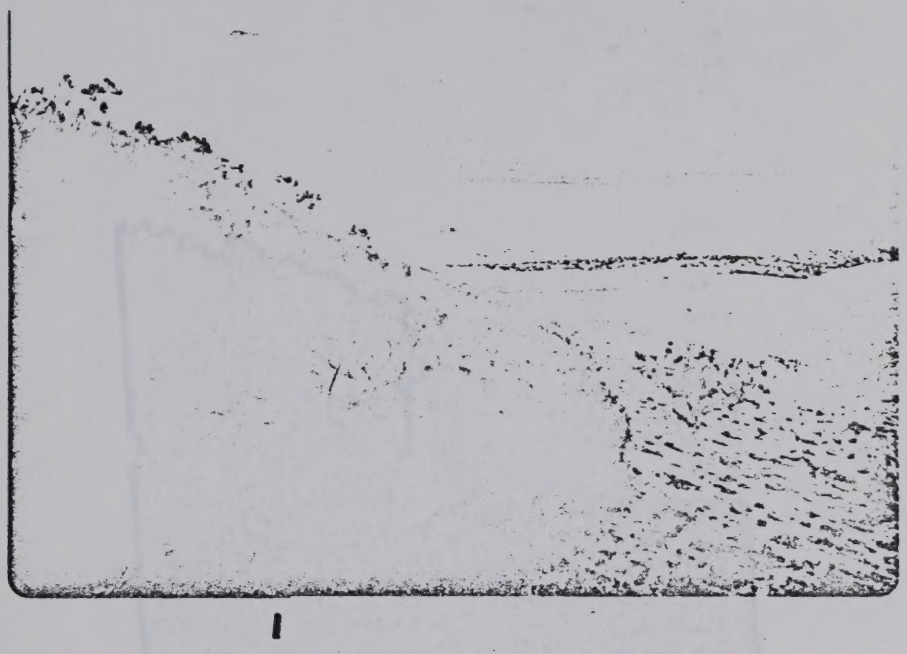


Fig. 17. Site #3 looking n.w. to Cedar Mtns. Nest is in top of tree(May 23, 1974).

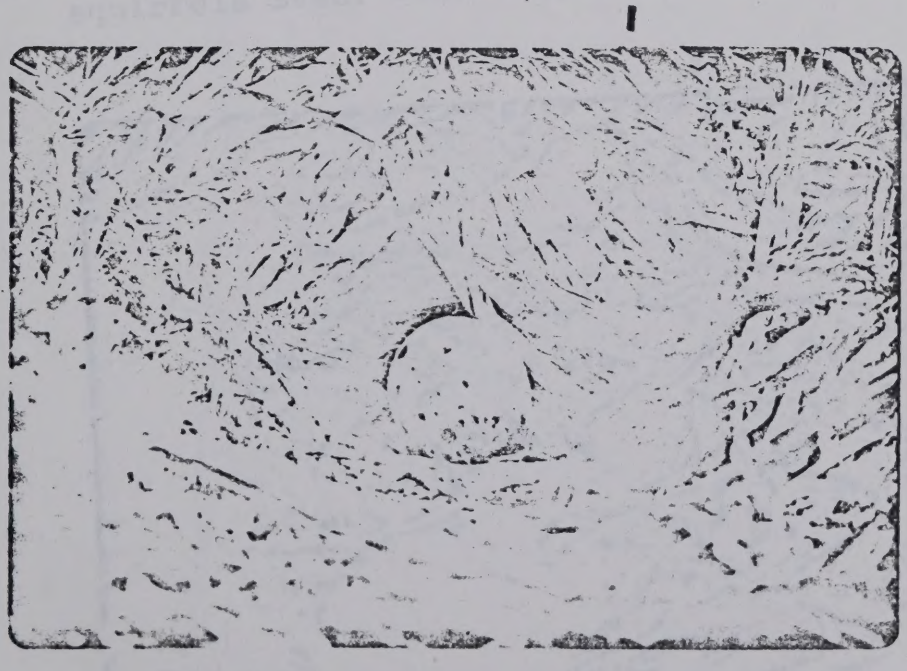
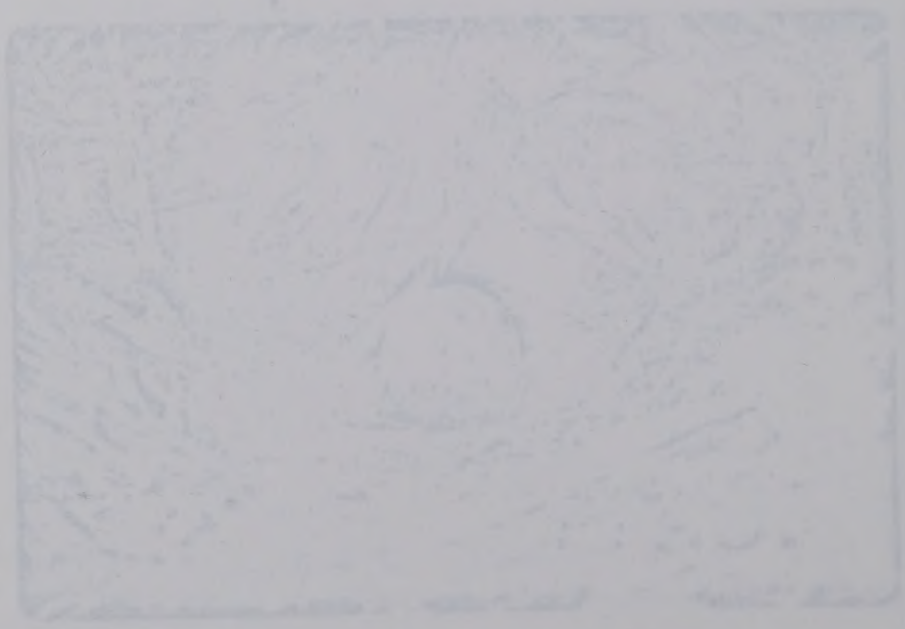


Fig. 18. Egg in process of hatching from site #3(May 24, '74)



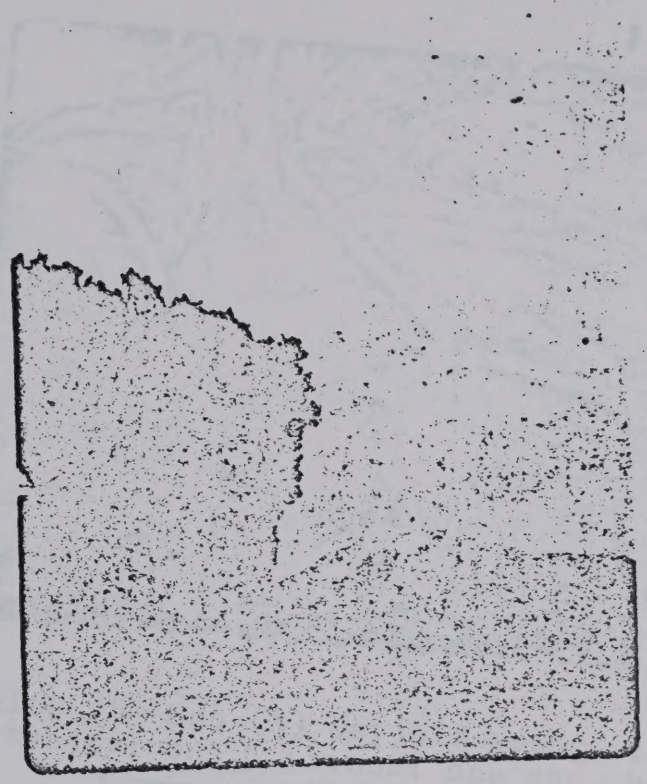
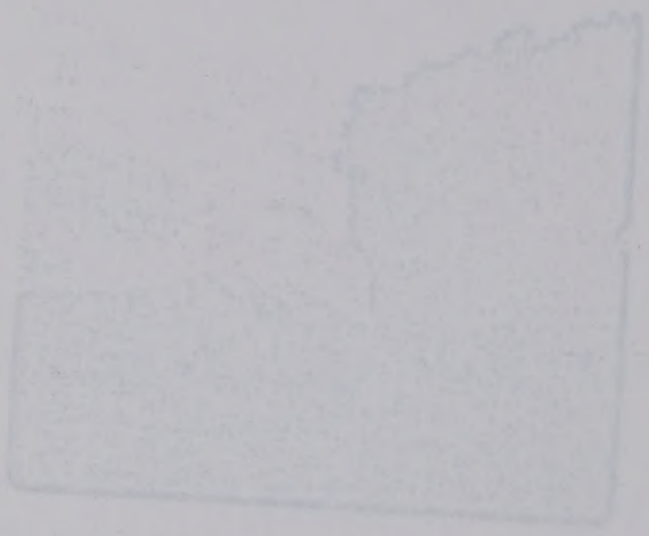
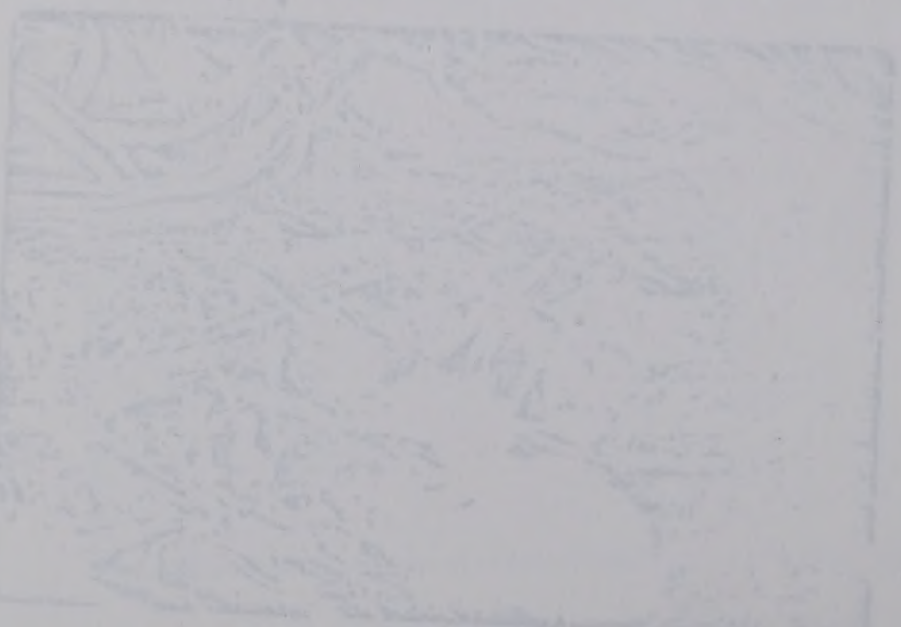


Fig. 19. Site #4 with low dense sage. Not many ground squirrels seen. Nest-arrow(May 28, 1974).

three day old young, one dead,

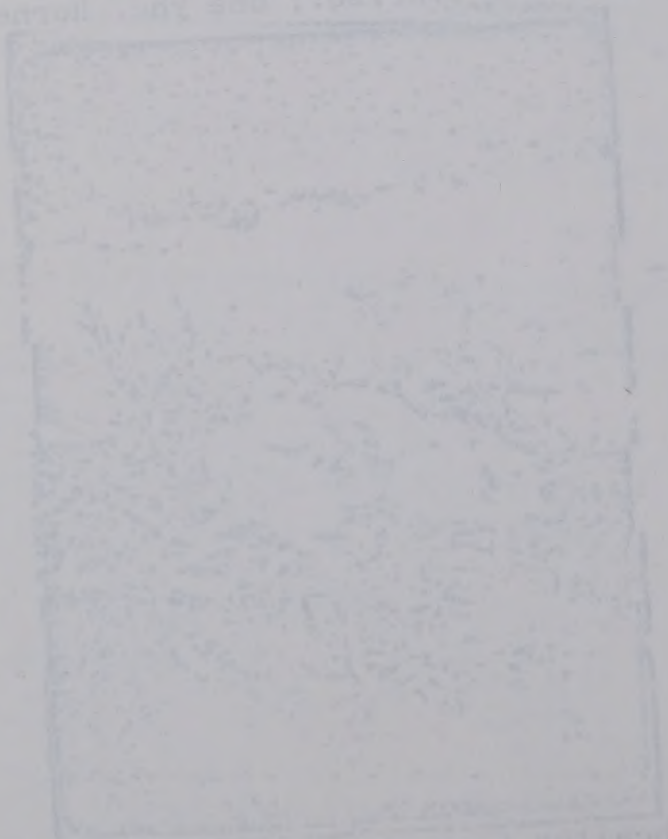




Great differences in condition of young exist even in the same area (Figs. 21 and 22).

Fig. 21. Site #5—One (3) day old young with egg just hatching; one T.gr.sq.; one yng. Horned Lk.(May 30,'74)

Fig. 22. Four healthy (3-4 wk. old) young-Site #9(May 29,'74)



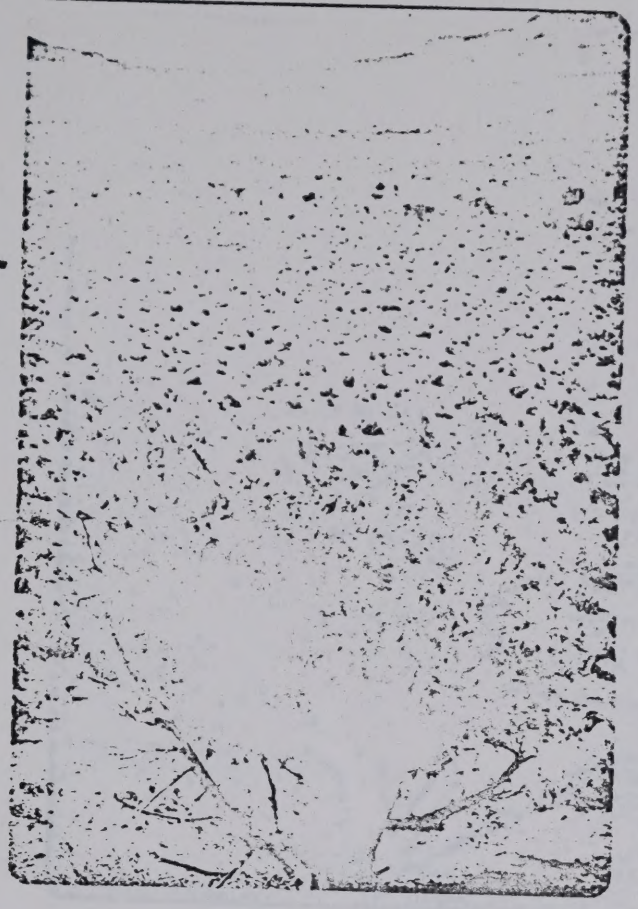


Fig. 23. Site #6 seven feet up in juniper. Hunting area in small valley of Slow Elk Hills(May 30, 1974).

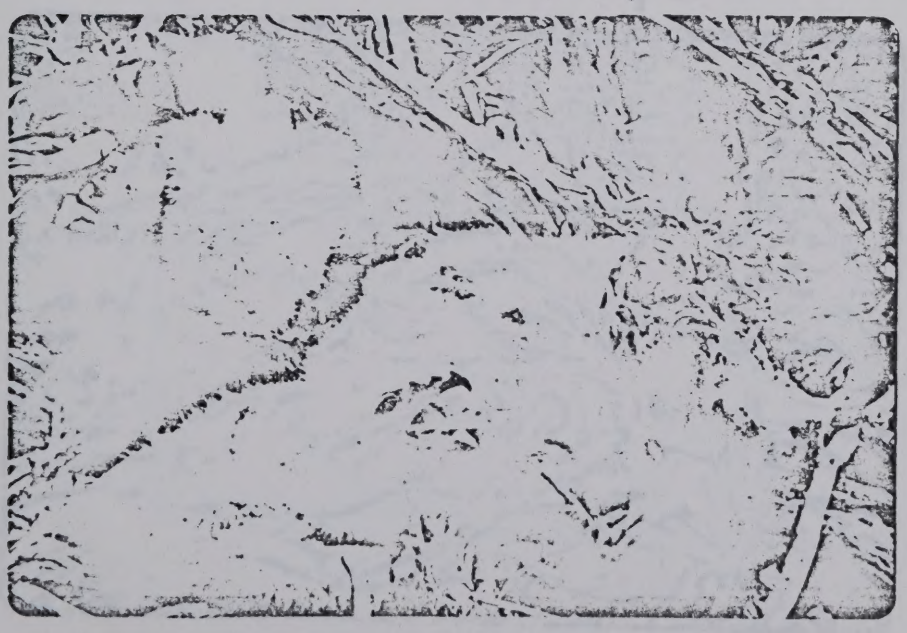
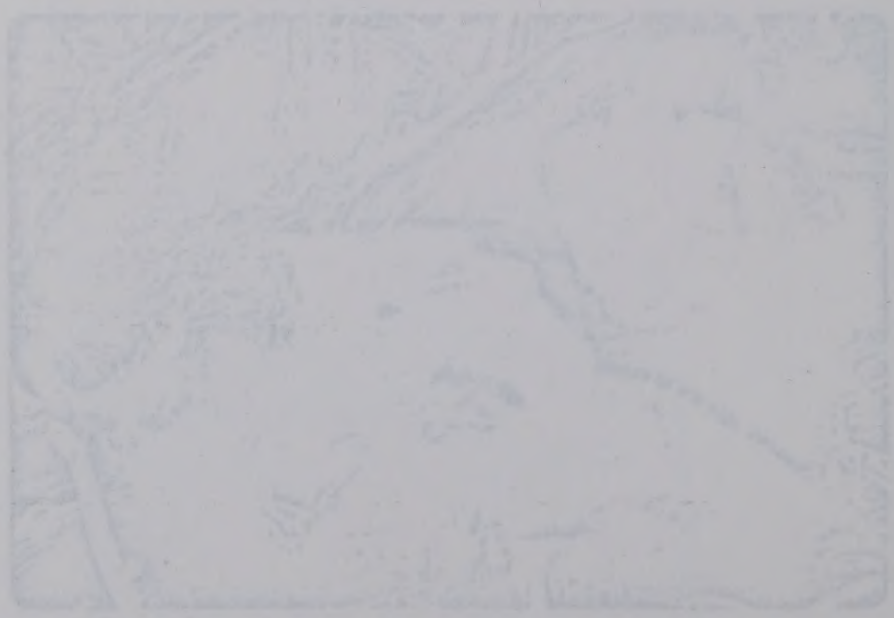


Fig. 24. (Two-three) week old young at site #6. Prey- one Harvest Mouse, dark phase adults(May 30, 1974).



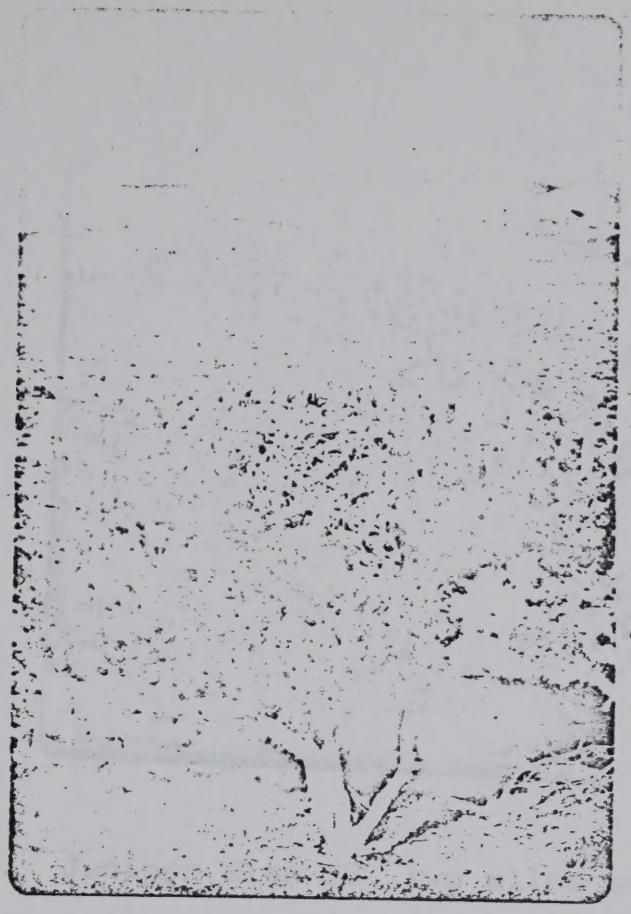
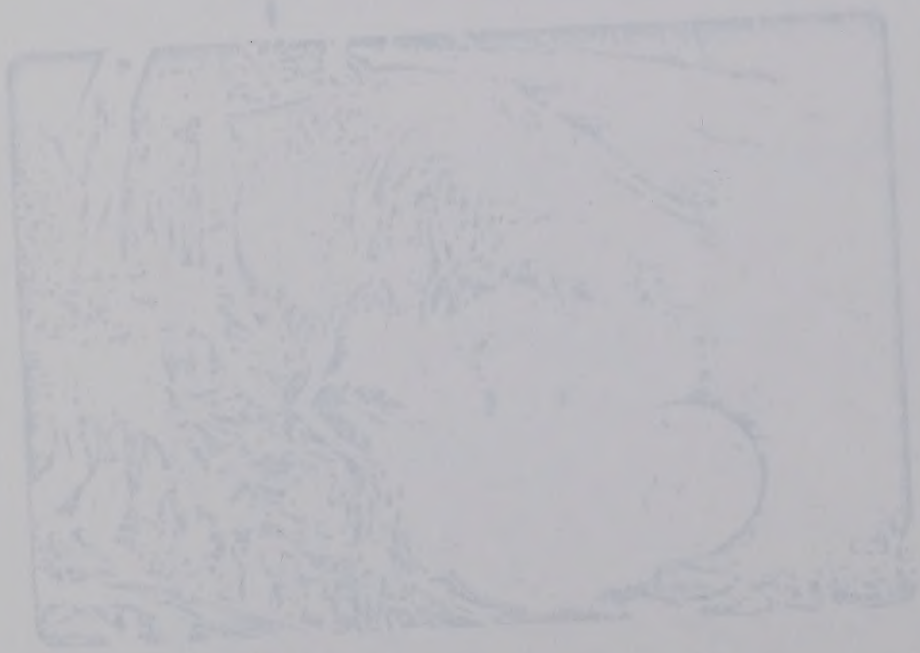


Fig. 25. Site #7 isolated juniper in Dugway Valley. High density of ground squirrels(May 29, 1974).

Fig. 26. Three young at #7(4-5 wks.). Most developed

Fig. 27. Juniper site #8, two miles south of #7(May 29, 1974

Fig. 28. Two young(2-5 days old) and unhatched egg. One Kangaroo rat found on nest(May 29, 1974) Site #8



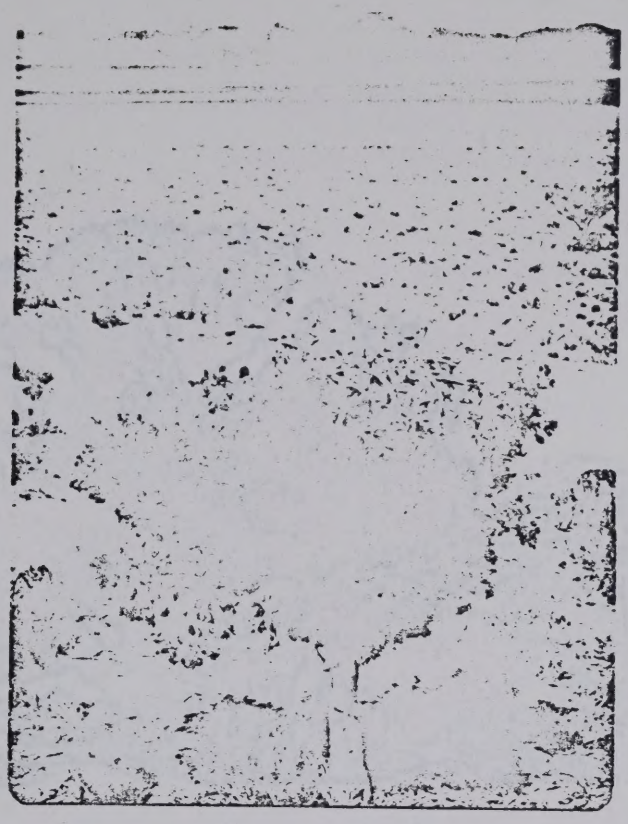


Fig. 29. Road nest site #9, two miles north of Topaz Rock Hounding Sign—looking n.w. across Dugway Valley (May 29, 1974).

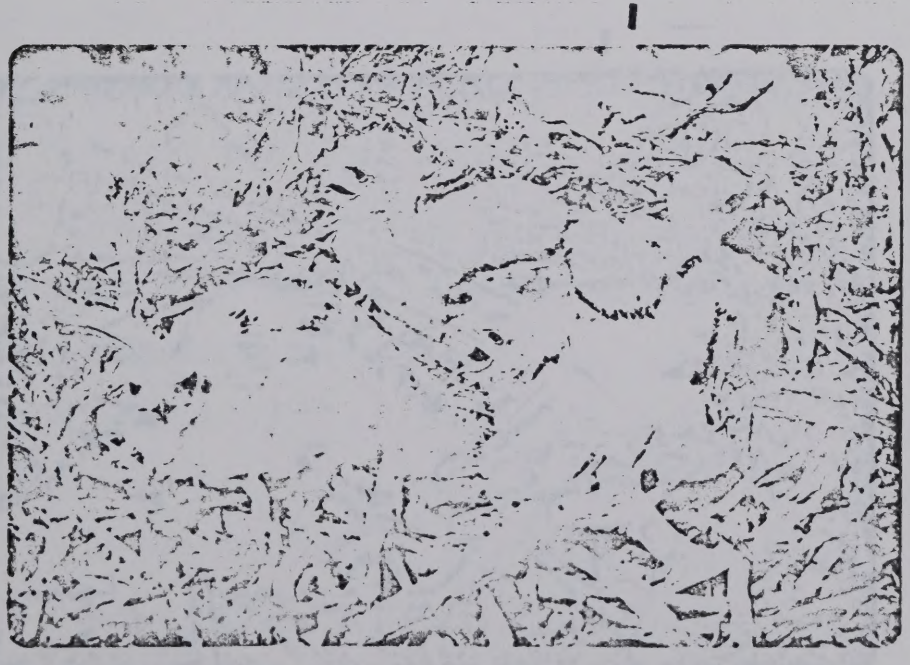


Fig. 30. Four(3-4 wk. old) young. Townsend ground squirrel in pellet(May 29, 1974)(Site #9)

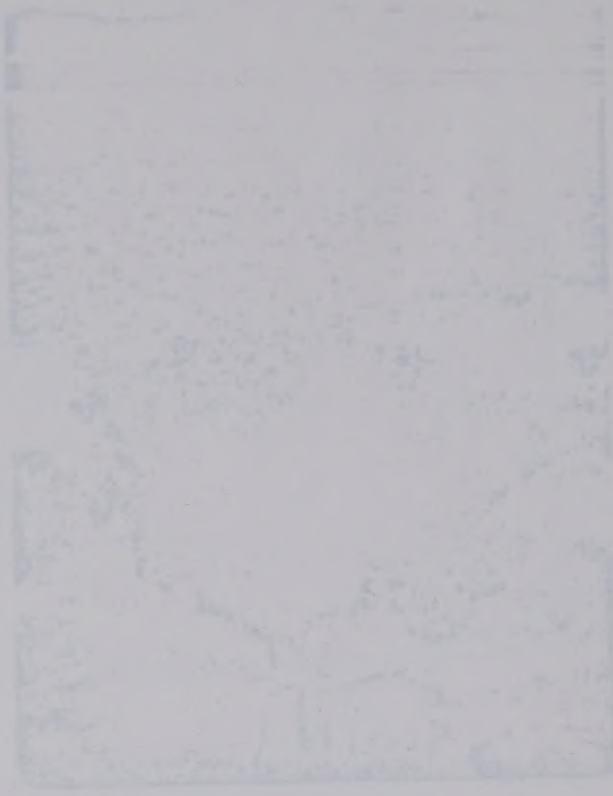


Fig. 31. Typical view of Rush Valley from southern end-east of Vernon. Sage is higher here than in Skull Valley(March 7, 1974).

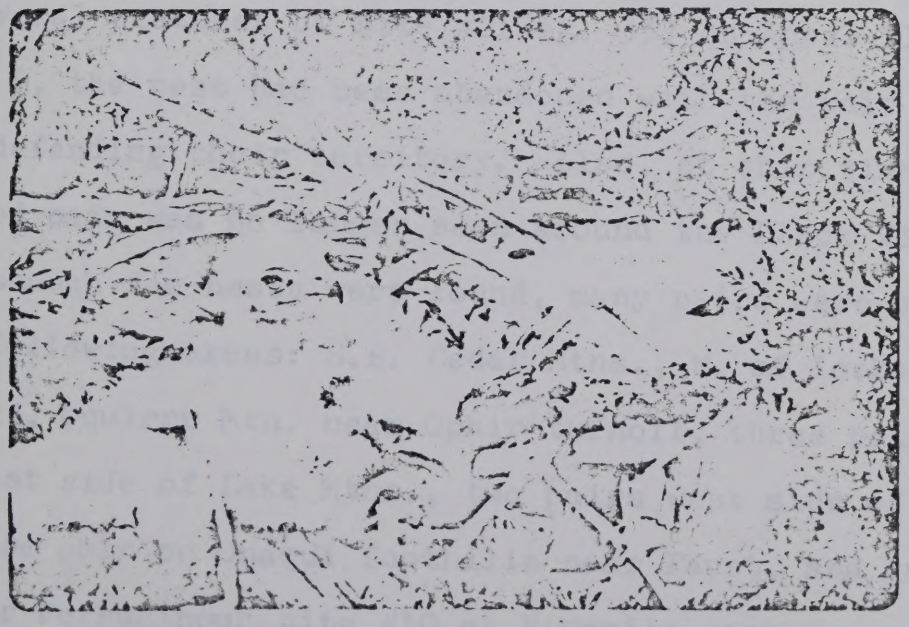


Fig. 32. Four (2-3 wk. old young). T. gr. squirrels in both pellets collected(May 1974)(5/6 #0)

Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo jamaicensis
(Active nests 1974)

Unlike the Ferruginous Hawk, Red-tailed Hawks were much more scarce—either that or much harder to locate. In all, three sites were found in completely different situations and location(Table 11).

Table 11. Active nest sites of Buteo jamaicensis 1974.

Site #	Location	Type	Exposure
1	N.W. Cedar Mtns.	Cliff	Only west
2*	N. Simpson Mtns.(foothills)	Juniper	All
3*	Fairfield	Black Willow	All
4	5 Mile Pass (Reese Valley Rd)	Juniper	All

* Abandoned

I was unable to get into site #1 or #3, but I did take several pictures of site #2(Fig. 33) on April 21, 1974. On June 5, the nest had been abandoned with the pair no longer defending their territory. Also, at this time, the Fairfiled pair was no longer seen around the Black Willow.

Although few nests were found, many pairs were observed in the following areas: S.E. Cedar Mtns., W. of Lookout Pass, East Mtn., Oquirrh Mtn. near Ophir turnoff, three pairs along west side of Lake Mtns., two pairs west side of Thorpe Hills, one pair on Onaqui foothills near Faust, and one pair near Ferruginous site #10 at Fivemile pass.

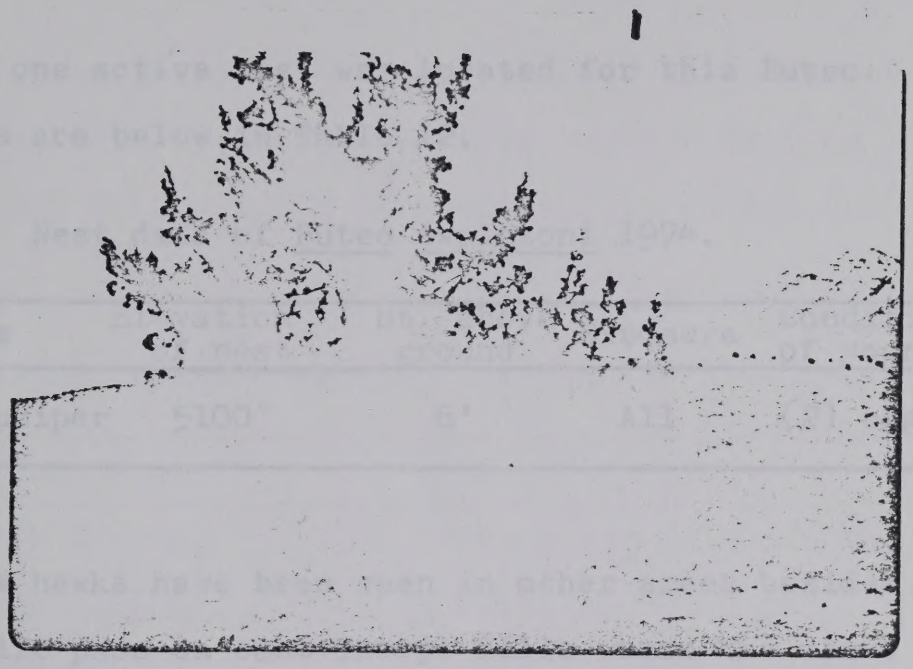


Fig. 33. Red-tailed Hawk nest in top of juniper on north foothills of Simpson Mtns.— looking so.(April 21,'74).

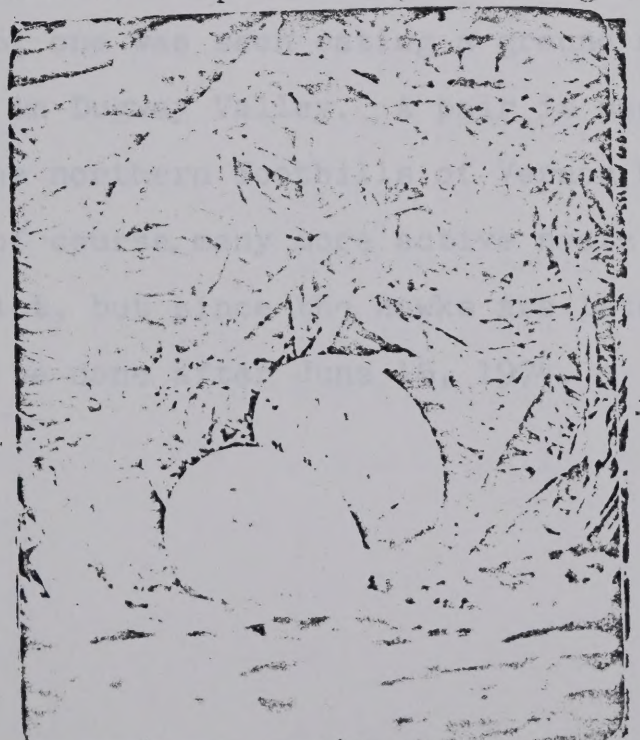


Fig. 34. Two Red-tailed Hawk eggs at site #2(April 21, '74).

Swainson's Hawk, Buteo swainsoni
(Active nests 1974)

Only one active nest was located for this Buteo. Statistics are below in Table 12.

Table 12. Nest data of Buteo swainsoni 1974.

Nest Site	Elevation of nest	Ht. above ground	Exposure	Condition of young
(10) Juniper	5100'	6'	All	(2) eggs

These hawks have been seen in other areas besides the 10 mile pass on east Thorpe Hills where the above nest was spotted. On June 10, three adults were observed flying over the eastern foothills of Lake Mtns. near Utah Lake. On May 16, one was seen eating a ground squirrel near Table Mtn. in Dugway Valley. A pair is usually seen near Faust in the northern foothills of Vernon Hills.

There are, of course, many more active nests in the northwest district, but since the hawks are late nesters, research should be done after June 15, 1974.

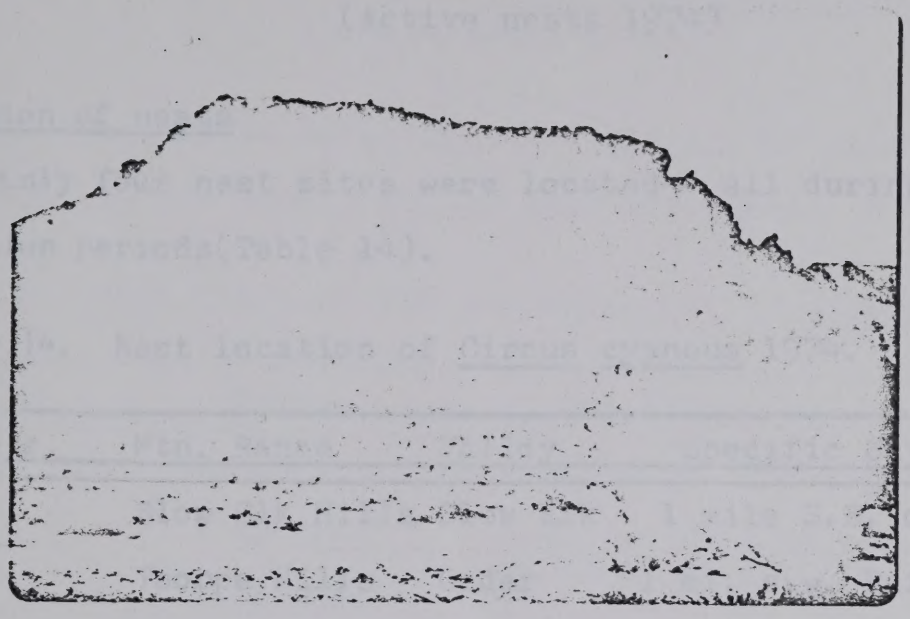
Prairie Falcon, Falco mexicanus
(Active Nests 1974)

There were observed 16 sites believed to be active. Although none were visited, the birds repeatedly flew into each nest site. Table 13 gives locations for the [illegible].

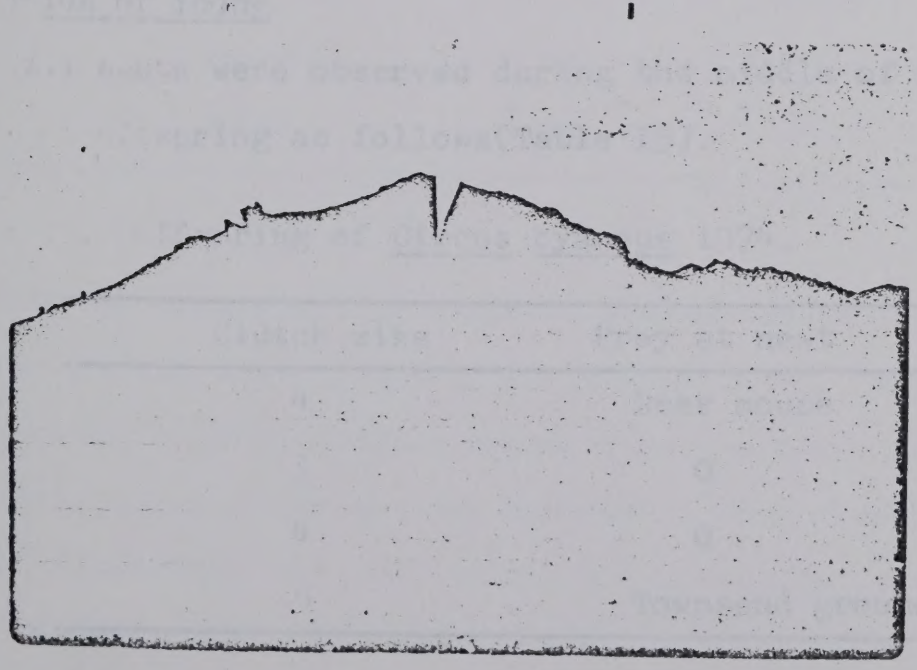
Table 13. Nest location of Falco mexicanus 1974.

[illegible] #	Mtn. Range	Specific Site
[illegible]	Fish Springs	Overlooking wildlife resort
[illegible]	Fish Springs	5 miles south of #1
[illegible] *	N. Thomas	1 mile s. of Pony Express Rd. (Fig 36)
[illegible] *	N. Thomas	Wild Horse Springs (Fig. 35)
[illegible]	N. Thomas	Wild Horse Springs
[illegible]	M. Thomas	The Delle- east side
[illegible]	M. Thomas	1 mile south of #6
[illegible] *	Lakeside	Craner Peak
[illegible]	Lakeside	Southern Quarry
[illegible]	Cedar	3 miles south of Eagle nest #1
[illegible] *	Cedar	½ mile so. of Redtail #1
[illegible]	Stansbury	4 mi. s. of Int.80, west side
[illegible]	Stansbury	7 "
[illegible]	Stansbury	10 "
[illegible]	Stansbury	13 "
[illegible]	Thorpe Hills	Citadel

* Territorial defense



Cliff line of Prairie Falcon at Wild Horse Springs between Black Rk. Hills and Dugway Pass May 28, 1974.



Cliff site of #3 Prairie Falcon-- 3 miles west of Dugway Pass(May 28, 1974). Arrow to nest.

Marsh Hawk, Circus cyaneus
(Active nests 1974)

Location of nests

Only four nest sites were located— all during incubation periods(Table 14).

Table 14. Nest location of Circus cyaneus 1974.

Nest #	Mtn. Range	Valley	Specific Site
1	Slow Elk Hills	Slow Elk	1 mile S.E. of Ferr.#6
2	Thorpe Hills	Cedar	1 mi. s.w. Fairfield
3	Thorpe Hills	Cedar	1 mi. s. of #2
4	Thorpe Hills	Cedar	1 mi. s.w. of #3

Observation of Young

All nests were observed during the middle of May. Offspring as follows(Table 15).

Table 15. Offspring of Circus cyaneus 1974.

Nest #	Clutch size	Prey at nest
1	4	Deer mouse
2	3	0
3	4	0
4	5	Townsend ground squirrel

Burrowing Owl, Speotyto cunicularia
(Active nests 1974)

Nine nest sites were located-- all on BLM land. Most were found in the Dugway Valley clay soil(Table 16).

Table 16. Nest sites of the Burrowing Owl, Speotyto cunicularia

Nests #	Valley	Specific site
1	Snake	5 mi. w. of Fish Spr. Refuge
2	Fish Spr.	4 mi. w. Pony Express Mkr. at Black Rock Hills
3	Fish Spr.	3 "
4	Fish Spr.	1 "
5	Dugway	3 mi. e. of Dugway Pass
6	Dugway	4 mi. e. of Dugway Pass
7	Dugway	6 mi. e. of Dugway Pass
8	Dugway	8 mi. e. of Dugway Pass
9	Cedar	1 mi. nw. of 10 mi. Hill

With the compact, clay soil of Dugway Valley, burrows are long lasting and provide perfect nest sites. At site #5, two Kangaroo Rat tails, several bird feathers, and the hind leg of a Black-tailed Jackrabbit were found(Fig. 37). Fig. 38 illustrates the soil condition throughout most of Dugway Valley.

Burrowing Owl, Speotyto cunicularia
(Activa nesta 1979a)

Nine nest sites were located— all on Bill Land. Most were found in the Dugway Valley clay soil(Table 16).

Table 16. Nest sites of the Burrowing Owl, Speotyto cunicularia

Nests #	Valley	Specific site
1	Snake	5 mi. w. of Plan Spr. Refuge
2	Plan Spr.	8 mi. s. Dpny Expressa Tlp.
3	Plan Spr.	5 "
4	Plan Spr.	1 "
5	Dugway	3 mi. s. of Dugway Pass
6	Dugway	4 mi. s. of Dugway Pass
7	Dugway	6 mi. s. of Dugway Pass
8	Dugway	8 mi. s. of Dugway Pass
9	Cedar	1 mi. nw. of 10 mi. Hill

With the compact, clay soil of Dugway Valley, burrows are long lasting and provide perfect nest sites. At site #5, two Kangaroo Rat tails, several bird feathers, and the hind leg of a black-tailed Jackrabbit were found(Fig. 37). Fig. 38 illustrates the soil condition throughout most of Dugway Valley.

Fig. 37. Prey remains about site #5 (May 28. 1974).

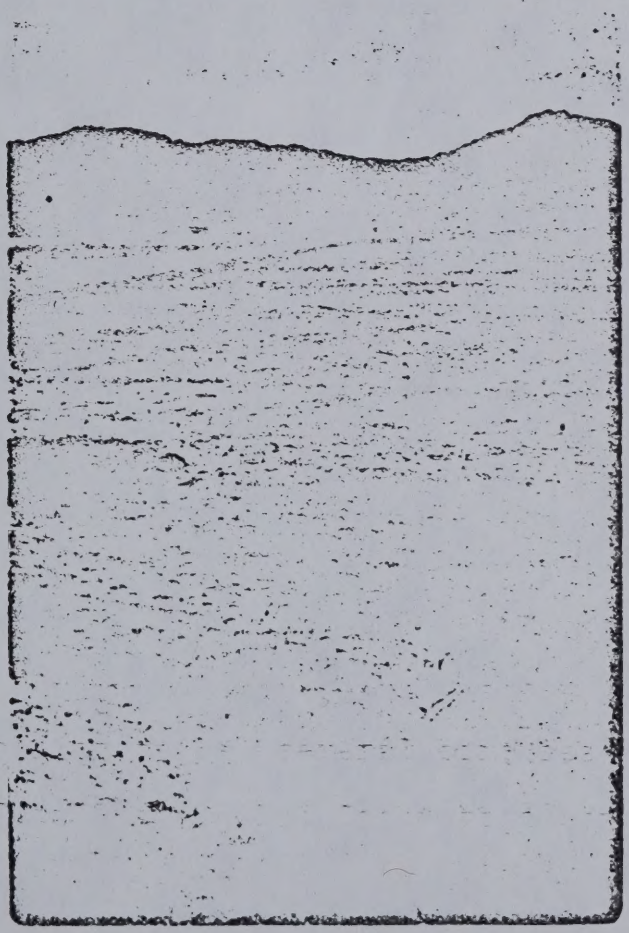


Fig. 38. Site #5 looking west towards Dugway Pass(May 28,'74).